

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk
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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at St Georges School Wembdon on **16th February 2015** that commenced at **7.30pm** when the following business was transacted

Present: Cllr J Riddle (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Bingham, Cllr N Harrison, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr T Thake.

County and District Cllrs A Bown and I Dyer.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay

203/14: To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr L Burge, Cllr T Thayer and Cllr J Woods.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr J Edney.

204/14: To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

Cllr Thake declared an interest in a letter received regarding the fees charged to the Parish Council by the Primary School for the use of their premises for Parish Council meetings (see minute 214/14c below).

205/14: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th January 2015

Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (4 in favour, 2 abstentions)

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

206/14: To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics

There was no Police attendance at the meeting.

PC Freeman submitted a Police report for January 2015. The following crimes were reported in Wembdon:

2 x theft; 2 x criminal damage; 3 x assault; 1 x possession of drugs; 1 x malicious communication.

Signature of Chairman

207/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Footpaths, Verges and Land working group.

The work on the two footpaths due to be resurfaced has not commenced yet. Cllr Harrison will chase this up.

Cllr Harrison said that he has examined the fence on the ridge footpath (see minute 183/14) and recommends that no further action is taken in relation to the positioning of the fence. This was agreed.

208/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Highways and Speedwatch working group

Cllr Bown raised what could, or should, be done with 'EDF' money in regard to road safety in the Parish, recommending that Andy Coupe, the EDF project manager at Somerset County Council be approached.

The Clerk told the Council about the recent meeting with Richard Newby of County Highways Dept. (attended by Cllrs Solomon and Reed along with the Clerk) where road traffic and safety matters were discussed at length.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Mr Coupe.

Cllrs Bown and Dyer were asked to take this issue up on behalf of the Parish, being our district Councillors.

At this point the Clerk reminded the Council of their standing orders, where members of the public were not permitted to ask questions at Parish Council meetings unless the question had been previously submitted to the Clerk. This includes District and County Councillors.

It was decided to include an agenda item regarding this at the next meeting (see minute 214/14a below)

209/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Playing Fields working group

The repair work to the damaged play equipment has now been carried out.

210/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Allotments working group

The locking arrangements for the allotment gates are now working very well. Very positive feedback has been received from allotment holders.

The combination lock for the water tap has gone missing. Hopefully it will be returned shortly.

Invoices have been sent to all allotment holders for 2015/16 along with a letter inviting them to the Allotment AGM on 2nd March 2015.

211/14: To receive and discuss a report from the Communications working group

Social media continues to be used to good effect. The Facebook site has had regular usage. The Parish Council notice board in Verona Court will have to be

Signature of Chairman

removed shortly, as its housing wall is due to be demolished. When the wall is rebuilt the notice board will be reinstated.

It was agreed that a poster should be included on the notice boards advertising the Parish Council website, and Facebook page.

The latest Newsletter is ready to be printed. It was agreed that the quality of the Newsletter was excellent.

212/14: To consider a financial update and to approve payments

Financial update reports were supplied. No questions were asked.

Statutory payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

Clerks Salary February 2015	£ 525.93
HMRC Tax February 2015	£ 131.40
GB Sports for January 2015	£ 18.00
Andrew Sutton Contract for January 2015	£ 651.50
Sedgemoor District Council – Dog bin emptying	£ 1505.09

Resolved: To make the statutory payments

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

Non statutory payments list

GB Sports and Leisure (Repair work in play area)	£ 256.80
GB Sports and Leisure (Repair work in play area)	£ 354.00

Resolved: To make the non-statutory payments

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

213/14: To approve the increase in dog bin emptying charges proposed by Sedgemoor District Council (from £2.68 to £3.13 per bin).

Resolved: To pay the increased charge.

The proposal was properly proposed and seconded (Unanimous)

214/14: Matters of report

a) Agenda items for the next meeting

To consider including an agenda item at future meetings 'To receive a short report from District and County Councillors'.

Cllr Reed told the meeting about her recent attendance at a Cluster meeting, and spoke about the 'Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund'. (This is a new grant scheme which has been created to enhance the landscape of the Quantock Hills and surrounding vale and reduce the impact of the development associated with Hinckley Point C nuclear power station). An information sheet will be circulated to Councillors and discussed at the next meeting.

Signature of Chairman

Cllr Reed also said that the Cluster meeting was told of a company who are prepared to give a presentation to organisations such as Parish Councils regarding 'Broadband – get up to speed'. A presentation will be requested for the next Parish Council meeting.

b) Chairman

c) Clerk

The phone box will be cleaned when a request is received by BT. The Clerk asked to be informed when cleaning is required.

The new computer accounting package has arrived. The Clerk knows of a local Parish Council employee who is prepared to install and set it up for a very reasonable fee. It was agreed that this should go ahead.

Cllr Thake left the room at this point.

A letter has been received from St. Georges Primary School suggesting a reduced fee for the usage of the School premises for Council meetings. This was discussed and it was agreed to accept the proposed reduced fee.

Cllr Thake returned to the meeting.

d) Members

The damaged railings on the raised footpath in Church Road have been replaced, but have not been painted yet. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **23rd March 2015** in St Georges School Wembdon at 7.30pm.

The Parish Assembly will be held on **16th March 2015** in St Georges School Wembdon at 7.00pm. A small working party of Councillors will be contacting local organisations inviting them to attend the Parish Assembly.

Signature of Chairman